REMARKS

Claims 20-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing preliminary amendments are made to place the application in better form prior to examination.

Since no new matter is involved, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis (Reg. No. 43,368) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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Attachment(s)

KM/PCL/cl

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